digging on "Dial before dig" service so as to keep liaison with other agencies who are engaged in digging.

6. Extensive patrolling of cable routes to detect any digging operations and take precautionary measures to avoid damage to the cables.

7. Provision of high grade junction circuits on pulse code modulation, coaxial and microwave media to provide better quality and more dependable service.

8. Rehabilitation of subscribers fittings in D.P. Boxes to minimise faults.

9. Replacement of overhead wires by insulated drop wires to avoid faults due to kite strings, birds' nests etc. which lead to contact of low insulation faults.

10. Use of improved telephone instruments.

11. Replacement of aluminium wires in the fittings at the subscribers' premises by copper wires to avoid break faults.

12. Computerisation of cable records and fault repair service to bring down the duration of faults.

13. Special testing of exchange equipments.

14. Working of air-conditioning plant in the exchanges are being monitored regularly to ensure proworking.

15. Replacement of life expired equipments.

16. Introduction of sophisticated electronic telephone exchanges to avoid problems inherent with the electro megnetic switching equipment.

Charging half rates for Telephone and Telegrams on Sundays

682. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that half rates are charged for booking telephones and telegrams on Sundays;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to five-days week introduced in Government offices the people have been demanding that there should be half rates of telephone and telegram charges on Saturdays also like Sundays; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir. Only for booking of ordinary trunk calls terminating beyond Fifty Kms. and S.V.H. trunk calls, half rates are charged on Sundays. However, Telegrams are not charged at half rate even on Sundays.

(b) In respect of trunk calls only one suggestion has been received so far to charge them at half rates on Saturdays. But for telegrams no such suggestion has been received.

(c) At the moment, Government has no intention to introduce half rates for bookings of trunk calls because 5 days' week has been implemented only in Administrative offices whereas in operative offices still 6 days week is in vogue. Also, there is no appreciable change in the traffic pattern on Saturdays after the introduction of 5 days' week. For Telegrams, this question does not arise, since even on Sundays these are not being charged at half rate.